

Early Childhood Advisory Council

December 17, 2015

Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Early Childhood Advisory Council was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on December 17, 2015 at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Frankfort, KY.

**Roll Call**

The following members were present: Representative Tom Burch, Senator Danny Carroll, Marilyn Coffey, Amanda Ellis for Commissioner Pruitt, Dreama Gentry, Eric T. Clark for Secretary Vicki Glisson, Tammie Isenberg for Paula Goff, Cindy Heine, Secretary Hal Heiner, Rick Hulefeld-Chair, Jennifer Miller, Commissioner Stephen Pruitt, Brigitte Ramsey, Anna Shepherd, Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd, Terry Tolan, Kathryn Whitmore, June Widman, Deborah Williams. The following members were not in attendance: Jane Chandler, Ben Cundiff, Tracy Haddix, Amy Hood, Daphne Hosinski, Mary Beth Jackson, Nicki Patton Rowe, Rita Williams and Rachel Yarbrough.

**Introductions.....Rick Hulefeld**

Rick Hulefeld welcomed the new members of the Council: Senator Danny Carroll, Amanda Ellis, designee for Commissioner Pruitt, Eric Clark, Legislative Director of Health & Family Services, designee for Secretary Vicki Glisson.

Rick Hulefeld thanked everyone who helped with the Superintendent's Toolbox. He thanked Amanda Ellis for her role on that committee, and the Commissioner for asking us to create it, along with Terry Tolan.

Rick Hulefeld introduced Commissioner Stephen Pruitt. The Commissioner said that he has set early childhood as a priority and stated, "We will work hard to give every child an opportunity to receive a great education."

**Presentation: Kentucky Rising.....Dr. Bob King and Terry Tolan**

The Kentucky Rising initiative is an assessment of student performance among 32 countries, in the subjects of reading, math and science using age as a common denominator. Since the assessment began in 2000, America continues to decline. Concerned about the future of the State of Kentucky, the Kentucky Rising program was established to benchmark Kentucky to the best countries and states and develop strategies to improve our capacity to better serve our students.

Terry Tolan spoke about the Early Childhood Data in the Kentucky Rising program gap analysis. Among other things, the report compared the qualifications for preschool teachers. Kentucky requirements for child care workers lag behind those in other states. Also, salaries of child care workers are lower than in the benchmark states. The question is, where does Kentucky want to be in ten years and how do we get there? The purpose of informing the ECAC is to 1) make the council aware of the work that has been going on, and 2) ask what the council would like their role to be. Dr. King stressed this program must be treated as an integrated coherent system where each piece supports all other pieces.

Terry Tolan mentioned that for our next frontier it would be timely for us to look at the teacher qualifications across systems. We need to ask, what is needed from our early childhood educators and what skills they need to help those children optimally. Terry proposed our next frontier might be to look at teacher preparation and ongoing education requirements.

Special thanks was given to Dr. Bob King for his presentation, which can be found in its entirety on our website <http://kidsnow.ky.gov>.

Rick Hulefeld welcomed the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary, Hal Heiner. Secretary Heiner thanked each council member for serving on this most important mission and focus on one of the most important matters in government and that is to prepare our future generations. Secretary Heiner gave appreciation for everyone's work, encouraged the members and let them know they have the Education Cabinet's full attention and he offers his support.

## **Workgroup Reports**

**Data.....Brigitte Ramsey**

Brigitte Ramsey presented an overview of the 2015 Brigrance results, which include a composite score and a breakdown of results by developmental domain and by demographic variables.

Joe Roberts presented the results that were released by the Dept. of Education.

- 1. Kindergarten Readiness by Demographic Sub Group**
- 2. Kindergarten Readiness by Prior Settings**

Joe reminded ECAC members that the Brigrance is a snapshot of a child's development as they enter kindergarten that helps us make better policy decisions. This is not a diagnostic tool.

**Race to the Top Update.....Joe Roberts**

Our Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant is broken down into 7 distinctive categories. The award was for 44.3 million dollars. Project 2 consumes about 93% of that 44.3 million dollars. Project 2 is redesigning our quality tier rating and improvement system.

Update: We have amended Project 6 with our federal project officers to start “Leadership Development Academies”. These academies will be in 5 regions across the state starting next year and will solicit competitive applications from those wanting to participate. There will be representatives of community based childcare, state funded pre-k, and both school based programs and licensed Head Starts. The idea is to train program leaders to better support the learning needs of their program staff and thereby improve quality. We have contracted with the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative to implement the Academies. The outcome of the project is sustaining quality leadership.

Project 2 – The tiered quality tier rating and improvement system called “Kentucky All Stars” is nearing the end of the pilot, presented in the September meeting of the ECAC. With our partners, we will begin analyzing the data and making final recommendations for Kentucky All STARS design. July 1<sup>st</sup> will be our “Go Live” with implementation of the new KY All Stars program.

Erick Clark, representing Secretary Glisson’s office, informed the Council that the outgoing administration publicly announced they had filed regulations to increase provider rates in the C-cap program by 5%. However, those regulations were never filed. The department is now evaluating this program and the regulations in their entirety. He wanted to clarify the situation and let the council know they are looking at it. It is not known when the final decision will be made as to whether or not this regulation will be filed.

**Executive Director’s Report.....Terry Tolan**

Terry Tolan spoke about the success of the School Readiness Summit that took place in Frankfort, November 18, 2015, and gave the dates for the 2016 ECAC meetings. Terry announced that the new Strengthening Families Modules have officially been launched, and thanked Dr. Shepherd and staff for providing information for the module. She asked everyone to mark their calendars for the Ready Kids conference taking place at the Galt House in Louisville, July 11-13, 2016. She then noted that everyone had a copy of the SREB report inside the portfolios each one received.

## Approval of Minutes, September 2015

On motion of Brigitte Blom-Ramsey, second by Marilyn Coffey, the minutes of the September 18, 2015 ECAC meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.